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Denny Carmassi

Stu Nevitt

OF SHADOWFA X

NASHVILLE'S

Harry Stinson

NEIL PEART CONTEST SOUND SUPPLEMENT



Plus: Revamping Your Snare Drum ●
Software For Drummers ●
Dealing With Studio Acoustics ●
Programming Shuffles ● Steve Gadd Solo

Cover photo by Neal Preston



Photo by Mike Jachies

DENNY CARMASSI

When Heart needed to change drummers a few years back, they were looking for someone with the power of a heavy metal drummer who could also be sensitive to ballads. Denny Carmassi fit the bill perfectly, and he and the group have gone on to their biggest success.

by Rick Mattingly 16

STUART NEVITT

While his group, Shadowfax, is often labeled "New Age," for drummer/percussionist Stuart Nevitt that label is much too restrictive. He discusses the background that has enabled him to combine a variety of influences into his distinctive style.

by Robert Santelli 22

HARRY STINSON

Most visible as the drummer with Steve Earle's band, the Dukes, and as a Nashville session player, Harry Stinson's activities as a background singer, producer, and songwriter give him insights that add depth to his drumming.

by Robyn Flans 26

MD SOUND SUPPLEMENT: NEIL PEART CONTEST WINNERS

A few months ago, drummers were invited to submit tapes to Neil Peart, with the three best winning three of Neil's drumsets. We are happy to present the winning solos by Jack Hess, Wayne Killius, and Mark Feldman. 32

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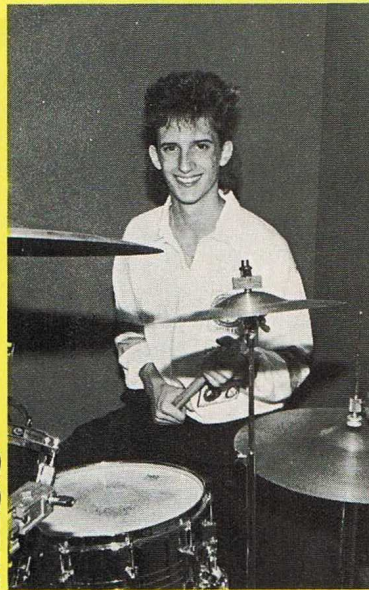
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NEIL PEARCE WINNERS CONTEST

SOUND SUPPLEMENT

A few months ago, Neil Peart decided that he had too many drumsets, and he wanted to give three of them away. A contest was held in which drummers were invited to submit a tape of a two-minute drum solo. From the 1,767 tapes that were received, Neil selected Jack Hess, Wayne Killius, and Mark Feldman to receive drumsets. We are happy to present their winning solos on this *Sound Supplement*. (Neil also awarded a fourth prize, consisting of a set of cymbals, to Mikel Masters. But Masters requested that his solo not be included on the Soundsheet.)

**JACK
HESS**



Age: 18

Age started playing drums: 11

Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana

Music education: Middle school and high school instruction; private instruction from Sam Withrow; currently attending Ball State University

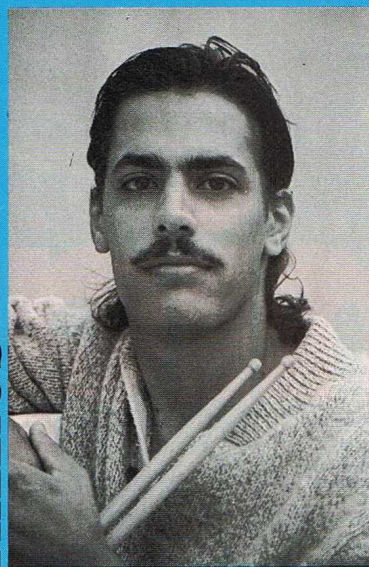
Musical experience: High school jazz band, 4 years; High school marching band, 4 years; All-State Jazz Ensemble, 1985 and '86; 15 First-Division ratings at State solo and ensemble contests

Influences: Father, Neil Peart, Omar Hakim, Sam Withrow, Don Lain, Sandra Butz

Primary musical styles: Rock, Fusion, Reggae

Neil's comments: "This entry is very original, in that he spiced up his performance by triggering occasional synthesizer sounds. He was one of a few entrants to think of this—a very imaginative idea—but he was the one to carry it off the best. He obviously spent a great deal of time working on this piece, and the work pays off in the tightness and integrity of the whole performance. The playing is first-rate, the rhythms are very modern, and the dynamics are effectively varied both by touch and by some tasteful rim playing. Overall, it's an excellent piece of music, which is very satisfying to listen to."

**WAYNE
KILLIUS**



Age: 22

Age started playing drums: 12

Hometown: Nashville, Tennessee

Music education: Private instruction with Herb Flower while in high school; college study with John Beck; graduate of Eastman School of Music

Musical experience: Eastman Jazz Ensemble; Gap Mangione Trio; recordings for HBO, *Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous*, Playboy Channel, and others; Opryland; currently free-lancing in Nashville and performing with Jerry Tachoir Group

Influences: Steve Gadd, Steve Jordan, Dave Weckl, Jack DeJohnette, Tony Williams, Neil Peart, Vinnie Colaiuta, Elvin Jones

Primary musical styles: All

Neil's comments: "I like this one because it has such a nice approach to a traditional, but abstract, form. His playing demonstrates a lovely touch. It is also one of the very few to use a bit of brushwork—and is very musical and unusual. The groove is very sophisticated, based around a funky, walking kind of rhythm, and there are some great sections of what I call 'stiff-armed' syncopation—a difficult style to control so smoothly. This is a superbly restrained and deceptively simple piece of work."

**MARK
FELDMAN**



Age: 24

Age started playing drums: 16

Hometown: New York City

Music education: Private instruction at Drummers Collective with Rick Considine and Hank Jaramillo; attended master classes by Steve Gadd, Dave Weckl, Vinnie Colaiuta, Gary Chaffee, and Louie Bellson

Musical experience: Free-lance sessions and gigs in New York City area with various artists and bands

Influences: Steve Gadd, Tony Williams, Elvin Jones, Philly Joe Jones, John Bonham

Primary musical styles: All

Neil's comments: "I like the dark mood, the interesting construction, his smooth technique and combinations of nice tonalities. I thought it was technically and rhythmically quite sophisticated and very smoothly performed. Again, this is not an easy style to pull off as well as Mark has done. The refrain of the intro is a tasteful idea and frames the whole piece nicely, making it, like the others, truly a piece of music."